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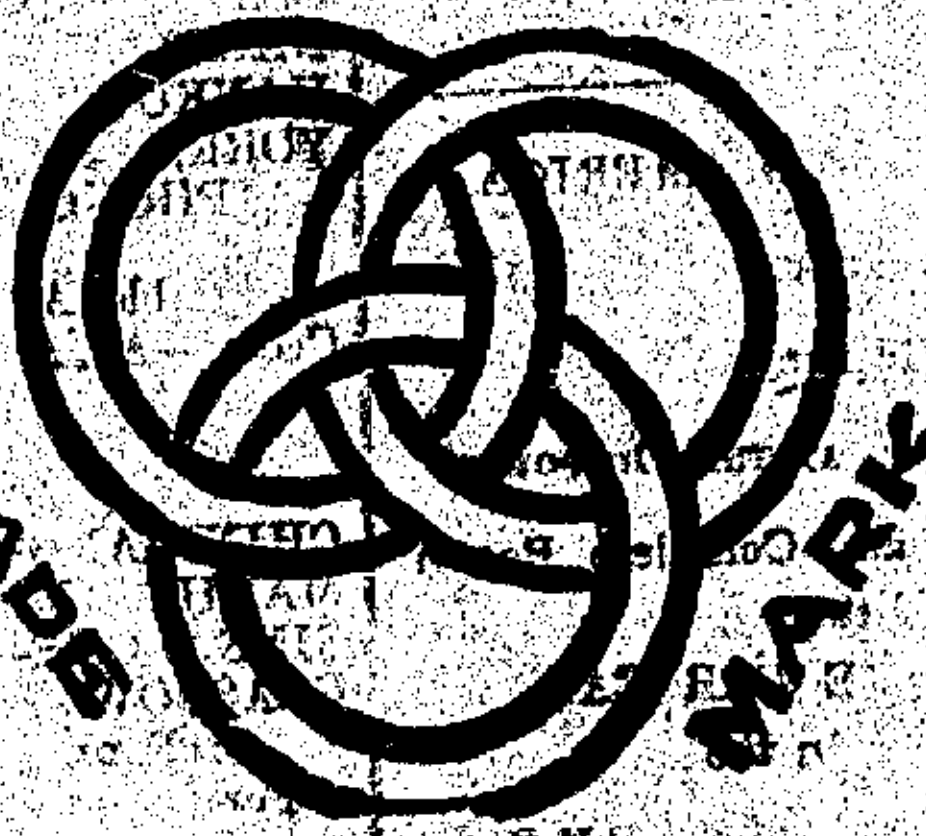
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A TALE OF OLD JAPAN.
BENKEI AND THE BOASTER.The Japanese officer, whose letters in the *Daily Express* we have noted on one or two former occasions, has sent another communication, which is printed exactly as received. In this he writes:

Long many years ago, in Old Japan lived famous warrior monk called Saio Musashi Bo Benkei, whom I have told story of already. One day, when Benkei was young man, he has had most brilliant idea: to possess one thousand swords. He went to the smithy of famous swordsmith Munehika, and said to him, "Please to make for me a pair of sword, most sharpest and strongest of all you have ever made." Munehika

bow, suck in breath, and make reply, "Hail, your honourable order is to receive my most humble quick attentions," and he bow Benkei makes call upon best armour smith in neighbourhood, one man called Saburobei, and order most strong suit of armour. "I wish," says he, "the suit to be made in best materials, and it is to be all in black colour." Benkei thought to himself that he would look the most ferocious warrior in his black armour and with the famous weapons of the swordsmith Munehika. He was most pleased upon himself.

When the armour and sword were finished, Benkei would make stand on bridge called Gojo to rob the Samurai of their swords. None who seed him stood on bridge had enough courageous lives to make fight with him. He had collected many hundred pairs of sword. One most boastful man, who was fencing master to the young Samurai of Kyoto, have heard upon Benkei's bridge exploitations. He gather all pupil around him and tell them, "I will go to make this warriors priest fight with me, but I will not lose my sword; I will make him give me his in the fight." Then he call for his armour. He put on most fine suit with sword silk cords on it, and gold inlay helmet. With his black mask and fiercest moustache he looked most formidable warrior.

"Good-bye," he say to the admiring pupils, "I will soon make return with the sword of this Tengu Bozu (demon priest)."

He was most boastful man—like Kaiser, and made long speeches upon his pupils to tell them how most brave man he was like Kaiser does to his population. Longtimes did the pupils wait for Benkei's return with the sword of the triumphs return with the sword of Benkei, but nobody has come to the fencing hall. At length, when the night is to turn into dawn, some one most boastful fence master. All pupil make how do him and assume the respectful positions. When they look up, the light is to be seen. Fence master stand before them all naked, except for loins cloth. "What has happened?" ask pupils. "I is most regrettable incidents," says the boastful man. "The Tengu Bozu has not left me anything. Benkei has taken everything from the boaster. Swords and all. Boaster is most similar case to Kaiser. Only is the difference that Allies do not make robberies upon the innocent peoples like Benkei."

NAVY AND LORD FISHER.
CRITICISM BY SIR HEDWORTH MEUX.

Admiral of the Fleet Sir Hedworth Meux, addressing his constituents at Portsmouth, said:—"I do not believe there is anybody in this town who has not complete confidence in Admiral Jellicoe and Admiral Batty. (Cheers.) Yet there are certain people who persist, whenever the slightest thing goes wrong, in trying to bring back a man who, in the opinion of the Navy, ought not to be brought back. I am sorry to be forced upon me."

After referring to Thursday night debate in the House of Commons and saying that he would have been there had he known it would have taken place, Sir Hedworth Meux continued:—"Mr. George Lambert is an excellent friend of mine. I like him very much, but he knows nothing about naval opinion. Quoting what Mr. Lambert said in reference to Lord Fisher and his admirers, Sir Hedworth Meux declared that the submarine menace never was well in hand."

Lord Fisher was a man who had always thrown the apple of discord into the naval service. He was a very old man who had done good work in his day and ought to be left in peace. To compare Admiral Jellicoe or Admiral Jackson with Lord Fisher was like comparing Bethlehem with Bismarck. Statements such as those made by Mr. Lambert were bringing into the minds of people distrust of Admirals Jellicoe and Batty."

As to the statement that if Lord Fisher had been consulted the Dardanelles adventure would not have taken place, Lord Fisher could have stopped this if he had liked. A man in the position Lord Fisher then held had only to say, "I will not allow this," that is, if he did not agree with it, and if Lord Fisher had wanted to stop that expedition he could have done so by threatening to resign. The reason Lord Fisher is not liked in the Navy (Sir Hedworth went on) is because he is grossly unfair to those under him. I regret to say this, but I consider it would be absolutely disastrous to the Navy if Lord Fisher were brought back. It is very unpleasant for me to have to say this, but it is true. Unless these things were said, Lord Fisher will continue to cause trouble. Lord Fisher's name, and his name, must come back, considered Sir Hedworth Meux emphatically.

Referring to the submarine menace, Sir Hedworth Meux said it was the greatest we had ever had to face, but the results were fairly satisfactory. Until it was got under, we could not delude ourselves with the hope that we should have an early peace.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE
WITH CHINA.MAKING UP THE BRITISH
MANUFACTURER.Mr. Archibald Rose, C.I.E., British Commercial Attaché at Shanghai, who is at present at home, is making a tour round the North Country industrial districts, giving addresses at some centres and interviewing firms at all of them. Mr. A. H. George, of H.M. Consular Service, accompanied him. The object Mr. Rose has in view is to try to give people some idea of present conditions in China, the possibilities of development, supply manufacturers with hints as to the best way of getting into the market for those who have not been out before, provide information as to the placing of agencies, and suggestions as to prevention of non-British competition. We understand, says the *Lancet*, that the main efforts of Mr. Rose are directed to explaining the methods of trade in China, and urging upon exporters in this country the desirability of creating a demand in undeveloped centres by showing their goods to the consumer by some method or other. This is in fact, a demand by supply, and to get as closely in touch with the consumer as possible. British distributors in China are making every effort to be efficient. All the young men are learning Chinese under the auspices of the British Chamber of Commerce; they realise that the great interior markets are the ones which will have to be developed, and they are training hard for the work. We want our producers and exporters at home to play up, to back them up, to interest them in their goods. During the five days that Mr. Rose spent in Glasgow he interviewed over one hundred firms, mostly big people, and it is pleasing to learn that he was delighted to find that they showed a keen interest in, and an astonishing knowledge of, the possibilities of trade in the Far East. One wants to interest all our people, and it is obvious the tour is the means of performing excellent work. It has been arranged jointly by the Foreign Office and the Department of Commercial Intelligence of the Board of Trade. The tour will last two months, and includes Glasgow, Leeds, Halifax, Bradford, Huddersfield, Sheffield, Manchester, Blackburn, Liverpool, Birmingham, Coventry, and other industrial centres.RAILWAY COMMUNICATION
IN ASIA.

Arising out of the question of the future status of the Bagdad Railway, renewed interest is being taken in India regarding the subject of railway communications with Europe via Persia and Mesopotamia. At the same time, however, the question of railway connection between India and Burma is being seriously discussed, people are also beginning to speculate on the probability of a great trans-Asian line.

The economic advantages likely to ensue from such a scheme were recently discussed by Mr. George Mathers in an article in the *Indian Journal of Commerce*. Mr. Mathers, who is the Assistant Superintendent of the East Indian Railway, points out that it is generally agreed that the policy of future construction in India should aim at the uniform gauge, and thus there should not be much doubt as to the utility of adopting the Indian standard gauge to the line from Bagdad to Karachi. The conversion of narrow gauges in India will create very little difficulty. The mileage to be converted would only be about 1,000, and the conversion of 400 miles of this is already under consideration. The proposed railway would enter India from China at Sadiya in Assam, thence proceed to Tinsukia on the A.B. Railway, and from there to Garhat to Sara Bridge. From Sara it would come as close to Calcutta as Nalhati, then turn sharply westwards to Katan in the Central Provinces. Here it would follow the G.I.P. Railway to Marwar, and thence be continued by the Jodhpore-Bikaner railway to Hyderabad (Sind). From there the North-Western line would carry it to Karachi. The section between Kotah and Marwar of 150 miles has not yet been constructed, but would present no obstacle whatever. Although the route suggested is via Sara, Mr. Mathers draws attention to the fact that with a bridge thrown over the Ganges at Mokameh Ghat the through distance to Karachi would be shortened by 300 miles. He considers that the cost of the bridge would be repaid by the phenomenal business that would result. Of the Chinese portion of the line only some 600 miles remain to be completed.When it is asked what are the commercial prospects of this trans-Asian line, one learns that the total foreign trade of China is estimated at a hundred million tons per annum. While Britain's share is 11 per cent of the total the United States have recently secured 8 per cent. Hence the need for a through railway to out-class America. This railway would be under the international control of England, France, and Russia, it being suggested that the railways of Germany and Austria should be mortgaged to the Allies in partial payment of the indemnity. And as there is every hope of a foreclosure of the mortgage, "the imagination runs riot at the possibility of the expansion of commerce which the Allies will inherit." Certainly railways are great civilising influences, and a line across Asia from the Persian Gulf to China, linking up with Mongolia and Manchuria, would do more to hasten the opening up of the interior of the continent than any other factor. *L. & C. Express.*HISTORIC BUILDINGS DESTROYED
BY FIRE AT NANKING.

The famous group of buildings in Nanking known as the Viceroys' yamen, and later as the official residence and administrative offices of the Vice-President of China, have been destroyed by fire. The Vice-President's personal loss is said to amount to a million dollars.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE WAR

In several States of Latin America it seems possible that the submarine blockade of the Allied and most of the neutral countries may directly or indirectly lead to internal disturbance. It is almost vital for them all to get their staple products to European and American markets, and therefore to do their best to end both the blockade and the war. Brazil and Chile have emphatically protested to Germany; Uruguay, Bolivia, and—less energetically—Argentina have done likewise. Peru has vigorously denounced the sinking of the Peruvian ship *Lorton*, and has exacted from Germany a promise of inquiry and possible compensation. Some of the other States may be influenced by the indignant reply of Spain to the German Note. But in Southern Brazil and Southern Chile large elements of the population are of German extraction, and in these States, and still more, relatively, in some of the smaller ones, German commercial interests are powerful, and immense efforts have been made of late years to extend German influence. In Ecuador and Paraguay that influence has been established in the Administration, and almost everywhere attempts have been made from Germany to create among the German residents that hyphenated patriotism which is now being so severely tested in the United States. Moreover, the great Republic of the North is nowhere popular in Central and South America, and in some of the Central American States, and in some of Colombia and Ecuador, it is very much the reverse. The real interests of all the States in a German defeat will thus come into conflict in most of them with their dread of the United States, and with that respect for Germany which the "hyphenates" and the Pan-Germans at home have done their best to encourage. Acute internal difficulties, therefore, may well be set up by the present phase of the war.In the greater States, however, in spite of large elements in the population which are of German origin, there is less reason for apprehension than in some of the lesser ones. In Argentina the large British and the much larger Italian element may be trusted to make for the interest of the Allies, and to keep German intrigues in check. In Southern Chile there is a large and compact German population; but British residents in Chile are so numerous and influential, and Chilean interests are so evidently bound up with the complete re-opening of the European markets for nitrates, that we may fairly expect a similar result. The strength of the sentiment of the German residents, indeed, was exhibited early in the war, at the banquet to Admiral von Spegel after the sinking of the *Monmouth*, and the *Glaspoin*, but it is a sentiment not likely to influence the oligarchy which governs the Republic. In three States of Southern Brazil—Parana, Santa Catharina, and Rio Grande do Sul—there are from 600,000 to a million of "colonists" of German extraction, aggregated in German-speaking towns and villages, and for the past 25 years subjected to every possible influence which could arouse in them a Pan-German patriotism. By school teachers sent from Germany, by German priests and pastors, by offering scholarships tenable at German universities, by a German Press, and the circulation of Pan-German literature, and by the influence of the German business men settled in the towns and the German Consular agents, every effort has been made to create a State within a State and prepare for a German defiance of the Monroe doctrine whenever the opportunity may come. How far these efforts have been successful is disputed. The great majority of the German-speaking inhabitants are native-born agriculturists, whose parents, or more commonly grandparents, settled in the country before the establishment of the German Empire, and against the wishes of the Prussian Government; and some of the original stock were Poles and Austrians of various sorts, so that this generation, though speaking, it is said, at least two German dialects, is even less "German" politically than the French Canadians are French. Still, the Pan-German influences above-mentioned and the active propaganda since the war began may have overcome their inertia; and we should not be altogether surprised to hear of a secessionist movement, though it is hardly likely to get beyond demonstrations in the towns.It is in the smaller States that we must look for the strongest German influence. The Paraguayan Army wears German uniforms and is drilled by German officers; but Paraguay is not likely to do anyone much harm. The danger is rather that such English and American interests as there are in these countries may be adversely affected by German intrigue. This danger is greater, perhaps, in Ecuador and Colombia. Not only are the training colleges in Ecuador staffed by German teachers, but it is common knowledge that the Guayaquil and Quito Railway, on whose prior lien the Government has again just defaulted, has a German traffic manager, sent out by the German Colonial Office at the request of the Government; though the financial record of the Ecuador Government is so unsatisfactory that we cannot say that the manager is the prime cause of the default. Still, the position is disquieting, the more so as anti-American sentiment has long been strong. In view of the alleged desire of the United States to obtain a naval station in the Galapagos Islands to protect the Panama Canal, in Colombia, too, it is by no means certain that a similar feeling has been destroyed by the treaty giving substantial damages for the loss of Panama. And both these States, it may be remembered, committed breaches of neutrality of Germany in the first months of the war. *(Continued at foot of next column.)*

FIRE ON THE N.Y.K. "RANGOOON MARU."

Advice has been received by cable at the local offices of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, that the s.s. *Rangoon Maru*, lying in Bombay Harbour, was on fire from Friday night, 6th inst., to Saturday, 7th idem. Holds Nos. 3 and 4, which contained 11,149 bales of cotton, 273 bales of yarn, and 272 packages of sundries, were flooded. Of these goods it was ascertained that 300 bales of cotton were damaged by fire, and the rest by water. The matter will form a subject for General Average contribution.

HONGKONG POLICE RESERVE.

SUMMER UNIFORM. In connection with the 1917 issue, the attention of Equipment Officers and all other ranks is drawn to the following:

- (1) All orders concerning uniform will in future be issued from Central Station.
- (2) The names of men not yet in possession of any white uniform should be sent at once by Equipment Officers to the Store Sergeant, Central Station, through whom orders for the uniform required will pass. These men may at once get measured at Noordin's.
- (3) Members already in possession of two suits of white uniform will receive a fresh issue in the place of old uniform passed as unfit at specified parades at Central.
- (4) All new uniform, when completed, will be issued to members by the Store Sergeant, Central, and not by the Tailor.
- (5) Equipment Officers should at once interview Sergeant Boulger, Store Sergeant.

POLICE SCHOOL, 5.30 P.M.
Class XI. (Inspector Gordon)—Wednesday, April 11th.
Class X. (Inspector Gerrard)—Thursday, April 12th.
Class IX. (Chief Inspector Kerr)—Friday, April 13th.

As from this date and until further orders, all ranks will attend Police School in plain clothes.

PARADES, CENTRAL STATION, 5.30 P.M.
Wednesday, April 11th.—No. 1 Company.
Also all Recruits, except of No. 2 Company, for passing out by A.S.P. (R).

Thursday, April 12th.—Whole of No. 3 Company.

Friday, April 13th.—Recruits of No. 9 Company.

Members of Nos. 1 and 3 Companies desiring to have old white uniform passed as unfit will produce same for inspection on the above parades.

BAND AND ORCHESTRA PRACTICES, 5 P.M.
Band.—Friday, 10th and Wednesday, April 18th.

Orchestra.—Thursday, April 12th, and Thursday, April 19th.

Music Class.—Monday, April 16th, and Tuesday, April 24th.

No. 3 COMPANY.
Inspector Wong Kwong Tin, on taking over all duties connected with Warning and Detachments, is included in the Staff.JOINED.
No. 2 Section.—P. 480 Ashit.

No. 2 Company.—P. 484 Ferdos.

P. 194 Fung Kwok Man is dismissed from the Police Reserve Force for misconduct.

P. 198 Chan Wang Chi is permitted to resign.

PROMOTIONS, ETC.
Sergeant 628 Gibson reverts to the rank of Constable at his own request.

P. 631 Cartwright, No. 1 Section, is promoted Sergeant.

Trooper 630 Arnold, Mounted Police, is promoted Sergeant and will take over Warning Duties.

P. 63 Ip Kwan, Ambulance, is promoted Sergeant.

(Sgd.) F. C. JENKIN,
D.S.P. (R.).

10.4.1917.

war. Moreover, in Colombia and Venezuela, as in several other States, old-established firms whose partners are, more or less remotely, of German extraction have been put on the British black list for trading with the enemy, with good reason, doubtless, though their motive was probably profit rather than pro-Germanism. But such a course hardly tends to promote local sympathy with the *Entente*.

In the Republic of Panama German interests are considerable, and also in Guatemala; but the United States is on guard at the Isthmus, and the President of Guatemala will not risk a quarrel.

In Nicaragua, perhaps, there may be trouble; but north of Panama the chief danger is probably in Mexico. Carranza is stated to have sent his best wishes to the Kaiser, and to have suggested a general embargo by neutral nations on the export of munitions. And it is probably true that the Germans in Mexico are doing their very best to make trouble for President Wilson. Germans are believed to have encouraged Carranza and Villa in opposing the United States ever since the fall of Madero's Government; German secret service money is said—though without much evidence—to have been used largely in Mexico, and at the time of the *Lusitania* incident the *New York Herald* published a facsimile of an order to the German reservists in the United States to report themselves for service at Ciudad Juarez, on the frontier, in the event of a breach between the Governments at Washington and at Berlin.

True, Carranza has now provisionally arranged his differences with Washington, and is busy preparing for the election that will legalize his position four weeks hence. But we may be sure that the German agents will use him to create a diversion of American efforts, if they can, or any rival Chief through whom they may prolong the Mexican imbroglio.

And the power that itself ordered and carried out atrocities in Belgium is not likely to stick at promoting them vicariously on the border of Texas and Arizona. *—Barrington.*

WAR SAVINGS.

HONGKONG AND SOUTH CHINA ASSOCIATION.

FOURTH LIST—\$210,305.

Members, whose official numbers are given below, have subscribed the following amounts this last month, totalling \$210,305, to the Hongkong and South China War Savings Association. This money has been invested in Straits War Loan at 6 per cent.

Full particulars and application forms for membership may be had from all the Banks or from the undersigned.

\$10,000.—No. 342, 343.	6,000.—No. 448.
5,000.—No. 389, 437, 281, 508.	4,500.—No. 440.
4,000.—No. 344, 438, 432.	3,400.—No. 403.
3,200.—No. 431.	3,000.—No. 320, 39, 344.
2,800.—No. 531.	2,600.—No. 334.
2,500.—No. 25.	2,400.—No. 414.
2,100.—No. 449.	2,000.—No. 325, 356, 415, 434, 442.
1,900.—No. 7.	1,850.—No. 542.
1,600.—No. 541.	1,400.—No. 480.
1,400.—No. 321, 430, 73.	1,300.—No. 208.
1,200.—No. 369, 533.	1,130.—No. 508.
1,100.—No. 440.	1,080.—No. 404.
1,030.—No. 300.	1,000.—No. 183, 382, 383, 235, 201, 435.
443, 450, 451, 85, 475, 325, 510, 518, 519, 434, 534.	900.—No. 42.
850.—No. 459, 511.	800.—No. 453, 502.
750.—No. 233, 345, 369.	715.—No. 435.
700.—No. 32, 454, 23, 37.	650.—No. 418.
645.—No. 346.	625.—No. 272.
600.—No. 185, 337, 35.	500.—No. 321.
400.—No. 221, 187, 335, 359, 370, 280.	300.—No. 410, 429, 281, 1, 47, 455.
200.—No. 410, 429, 281, 1, 47, 455.	100.—No. 410, 429, 281, 1, 47, 455.
400.—No. 239, 215.	300.—No. 17, 340, 331, 371, 375, 183, 39.
250.—No. 327, 341, 152, 307, 291, 317.	200.—No. 447, 470, 89, 108, 256, 360.
150.—No. 61.	100.—No. 255.
100.—No. 384, 422.	50.—No. 210, 330, 27, 230, 237, 238, 359.
30.—No. 113, 478, 479, 492, 17, 74.	15.—No. 187, 75, 27, 336, 537.
185.—No. 275.	180.—No. 452, 514.
165.—No. 151, 154, 155.	150.—No. 15, 347, 385, 398, 417, 504, 294.
130.—No. 405, 224, 216.	125.—No. 268.
110.—No. 255.	100.—No. 203, 42, 85, 326, 178, 286, 179.
80.—No. 189, 6, 40, 29, 348, 349.	50.—No. 152, 30, 48, 377, 61.
30.—No. 391, 307, 37, 411, 417.	20.—No. 23, 326, 49, 230, 286.
10.—No. 313, 316, 350, 14, 15, 438.	5.—No. 459, 460, 451, 93, 473, 118.
3.—No. 125, 274, 277, 278, 74, 98.	1.—No. 183, 373, 480, 304, 310, 487.
1.—No. 124, 345, 459, 515, 200.	3.—No. 357, 391, 30, 103, 178, 220.
85.—No. 157.	60.—No. 153, 168, 314, 431, 115, 86.
75.—No. 105, 116, 144, 101, 268, 102.	70.—No. 109, 95.
60.—No. 327, 432, 289, 77, 75, 481, 62.	55.—No. 156.
50.—No. 316, 173, 327, 332, 333, 315.	40.—No. 322, 339, 135, 269, 363.
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THE WAR.

GREAT BRITISH VICTORY.

SIX THOUSAND PRISONERS CAPTURED.

FAMOUS "HARP" REDOUBT TAKEN.

ANTI-GERMAN FEELING IN SOUTH AMERICA.

DECLARATION OF WAR BY BRAZIL IMMINENT.

AUSTRIA AND BULGARIA BREAK WITH AMERICA.

Franco-Belgian Front.

LATEST CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

A GREAT BATTLE.

London, April 10th.

Reuter's Correspondent at British Headquarters, telegraphing on the evening of April 9th, states:—

BATTLE RAGING VIGOROUSLY.

The battle is raging with unabating vigour, roughly from opposite Lens towards St. Quentin.

The day has gone well for us, and our troops have made substantial progress.

BIG CAPTURES.

We have made big captures of prisoners, and these are coming back in an endless procession.

In one area alone we counted 3,500 up till mid-day.

Our casualties have so far been relatively small, which is usual in successful operations.

The fighting is increasing in intensity. It is too early yet to begin to count the cost of our victory.

The Infantry advanced along most of the front without being strenuously opposed.

The battle developed strictly in accordance with the programme arranged, but determined resistance was offered near Arras.

REDOUBT AND BATTALION CAPTURED.

A large "pocket" of the enemy is reported to have been still holding out at mid-day, although they are entirely surrounded.

The famous "Harp," a redoubt little less formidable than the "The Labyrinth," was captured with practically a whole battalion.

The capture was probably made through the instrumentality of the "Tanks," which climbed Telegraph Hill, commanding the "Harp."

We made progress well along the railway running through to Scarpe Valley, which we gained. We have taken Bois-de-la-Maison Blanche, on the Lens branch line.

We were vigorously resisted at several strong points in Blangy, a suburb of Arras, through which the German front line has run since the winter of 1914, but our bombing parties are gradually reducing them.

The Canadians fought well forward upon the Vimy slopes, but the resistance here is stiffening.

OUR HEAVY ARTILLERY PREPONDERANCE.

Our preponderance in heavy artillery is one of the most striking features. It is working great execution, tearing to shreds the dense wire entanglements within range.

At the first assault we effectively exploded a number of mines at various points.

The spirit of the troops is everywhere admirable and they are full of confidence.

It is a noteworthy fact that the Germans are ceaselessly signalling for artillery support.

The day was bright and dry, but a gale greatly handicapped our airmen.

The Correspondent, in summing up, says that assuredly the British Spring campaign has opened most favourably.

"WHEN?"

There are portents that the Allies' victory is so manifest that the only question we now think of asking is the little word "When?"

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—

THE GERMAN TOLL.

Up to two o'clock this afternoon 5,816 prisoners have been captured, of whom 119 are officers, who have passed the collecting stations.

Many more have been captured, but they have not yet been counted.

Of these many belong to the Bavarian division, who have suffered heavy casualties in to-day's fighting.

The captures include guns, numbers of trench-mortars, and machine-guns.

Further progress was made in the neighbourhood of Havrincourt Wood.

THREE VILLAGES CAPTURED.

We captured the village of Demicourt, and in the direction of St. Quentin the villages Le Verguier and Pontru.

AERIAL ACTIVITY.

Our aerial activity was continued on Sunday with great energy, and several bombing raids were carried out.

The machines co-operated with the Artillery with excellent results.

Two of the enemy's machines were destroyed, and fifteen were driven down, and probably crashed to earth.

Two German kite-balloons were brought down in flames.

Ten of our aeroplanes are missing.

GERMAN REPORT.

A German wireless official report states: Throughout the day there has been fighting on both sides of the Arras, the enemy having penetrated parts of our position.

EARLIER CABLES.

FROM ARRAS TO ST. QUENTIN.

London, April 9th.

We attacked, at 5.30 this morning, on a wide front and penetrated the enemy lines everywhere, from the southward of Arras to the southward of Lens, progressing satisfactorily at all points.

We stormed the villages of Hermies and Boursies, in the direction of Cambrai, and also penetrated Havrincourt Wood.

We captured Fresnoy-le-Petit, in the direction of St. Quentin, and advanced our line to the south-east of Le Verguier.

We took a considerable number of prisoners.

SUBSTANTIAL BRITISH PROGRESS.

London, April 9th.

Reuter's Correspondent at British Headquarters telegraphing this evening states that the battle of Arras is raging unabatedly and is going in favour of the British, who are making substantial progress.

FRENCH ACTIVITY.

London, April 9th.

A French communiqué reports:—

In spite of bad weather the artillery on both sides is very active in several sectors, German attacks to the north-west and to the south of Rheims failed.

We advanced somewhat in the region of Maisons de Ch.

THIRD GREAT BATTLE FOR VIMY RIDGE.

London, April 9th.

Reuter's Correspondent at British Headquarters in France states that the offensive, mentioned in the earlier communiqué, has extended to Lens and St. Quentin. The steady bombardment of the enemy's line, which has been progressing for days, intensified during last night.

Before the assault was delivered, the bombardment reached the greatest volume of fire yet seen in the war. When the infantry attacked rain fell heavily. It was quite dark, but the rain blew in the faces of the Germans, rather favouring us, while the glare of the guns and the signal lights afforded plenty of illumination. The weather improved later, though the wind was not favourable to aeroplane work.

Shortly after 8 o'clock p.m., the second phase of the attack developed and the fighting intensified.

The correspondent surmises that the attack was bigger, and took place sooner, than the enemy expected.

He recalls the fact that the northern section of the ground over which the troops are now battling was the scene of the tremendous French fighting during May, 1915. The notorious Vimy Ridge is one of the commanding spurs of the system, and the present is the third great battle, since the end of 1914, for the mastery of this great key to the position.

AERIAL WARFARE.

RECORDS OF SPEED AND SKILL BROKEN.

London, April 8th.

Mr. Beach Thomas, the war correspondent, describes the aeroplanes on both sides on the Western Front as possessing breathless speed and being practically noiseless. All records of speed and skill have been broken. A British machine destroyed five enemy aeroplanes in one flight. The art of high diving has increased immeasurably. Machines descend like a plummet from a height of 18,000 feet to bomb a train, fire on a balloon, or fusillade a body of troops. Firing at small objects on the ground is practised daily, like tent-pegging. So quickly do the divers come and go that riflemen are often too astonished to fire till the machine has disappeared.

The German authorities complain bitterly of the failure of their infantry to fire on such occasions.

GERMANAL.

LATEST CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

ANNIVERSARY OF IRISH REBELLION.

London, April 10th.

The anniversary of the Irish Rebellion passed off with less disorder in Ireland than was expected. The Republican flag was hoisted on the ruins of the Post Office in Dublin and on the City Hall at Cork. At night both were removed.

In the afternoon, there were crowds of youths in Dublin who stoned the police at various points, injuring several. They smashed some windows and stoned the Military Guard passing Abbey Street.

There were large crowds in Dublin, many apparently coming from the country to see big happenings, but they were disappointed at the stand of the Sinn Féiners, who not merely did not participate in the attacks on the police, but discouraged the stone-throwers and helped to restore order. Dublin was quiet at night.

EARLIER CABLES.

PANIC IN CHICAGO WHEAT PIT.

New York, April 8th.

A panic in the Chicago wheat pit resulted in prompt Government action to safeguard the world's food supply. The panic was due to the report of the Department of Agriculture that severe weather had reduced the winter crop by 50,000,000 bushels. Fortunately the production of rye is a record of 100,000,000 bushels. Farmers are sowing maize on the damaged wheat fields.

LATEST CABLES. SOUTH AMERICA AND GERMANY.

GERMAN MINISTER "TURNED DOWN."

Rio de Janeiro, April 10th.

Dr. Mueller, the Foreign Minister, refused to receive the German Minister.

Dr. Mueller has ordered a steamer to be prepared for an immediate mission abroad.

THE "PARANA."

LATER.

After a conference with the War Minister, General Jose Cactano de Faria, Dr. Mueller telegraphed to the Ambassador in Paris urgently requesting a report of the sinking of the *Parana*.

RUPTURE WITH GERMANY IMMINENT.

It is expected that a rupture with Germany will be announced immediately on receipt of the report to-day, and will probably be followed by the confiscation of all German ships.

ANTI-GERMAN WAVES THROUGHOUT SOUTH AMERICA.

New York, April 10th.

The action of Cuba has affected all Latin America, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Salvador, and Honduras experiencing great anti-German waves of feeling.

The expected entry of Brazil will be a signal for all the Republics.

EARLIER CABLES.

GERMAN CONSULS IN PANAMA.

Panama, April 8th.

The President has cancelled the *acquitances* of all German Consuls.

SOUTH AMERICA "VERY EXCITED."

London, April 8th.

Reports from Rio de Janeiro, Buenos Aires, Santiago and Lima show that South America is very excited over the intervention of America, Cuba and Panama in the war, and also over the torpedoing of the *Parana*.

The Chilean Press believes that Chile shortly will be obliged to act against Germany.

The Peruvian Press considers that the South American Republics must act jointly against submarine warfare.

The Argentine Press thinks that the situation is most grave.

The opinion is that Cuba will act most usefully in destroying the pirates' lairs in the Antilles.

BRAZILIAN PRESS DEMANDS REPRISALS.

Rio de Janeiro, 8th.

The whole of the Brazilian Press demands reprisals for the sinking of the *Parana*. The Germans in Rio de Janeiro are being actively watched, especially those on the interned ships.

The German Minister had a prolonged interview with the Foreign Minister, to whom the former asserted that the *Parana* was mined, but the Government is satisfied that she was torpedoed, and is now considering what action will be taken.

AMERICA AND WAR.

LATEST CABLES.

BULGARIA BREAKS WITH AMERICA.

Washington, April 10th.

Bulgaria has severed relations with the United States.

FIVE BILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF BONDS.

Washington, April 10th.

The Democratic leaders will introduce in the House of Representatives the Five Billion Dollar Measure, comprising Three Billion Dollars for the Allies and the remainder for the United States' war expenses.

FOOD AND MUNITIONS FOR ALLIES.

Legislation to facilitate the export of food and munitions for the Entente will be rushed.

EARLIER CABLES.

GERMAN SHIPS SEIZED IN CUBAN PORTS.

Havana, April 8th.

Three interdicted German ships at Havana, two at Cienfuegos and one at Santiago have been seized and the crews arrested.

WAR LEGISLATION IN AMERICA.

Washington, April 8th.

The war legislation will be submitted to Congress during the present week.

It is increasingly apparent that the Government contemplates sending an army to Europe. Three million grenades have been ordered and the steel helmet is to be adopted.

The General Staff contemplates an army of 2,000,000 being raised in two years.

Washington, April 10th.

A Bill has been introduced into the Senate which imposes three years' imprisonment for destroying war material during war time.

PRESIDENT WILSON'S REPLY TO KING GEORGE.

London, April 9th.

President Wilson has replied to the King's message as follows:—

Your Majesty's eloquent message at a critical moment in our national life is a proof to the community of the sentiment among the free peoples of the world who are now striving to defend their ideals, to maintain the blessings of national independence and to uphold the rights of humanity. In the name of the American people and of the Government to which they look for guidance, I thank you for your inspiring words.

PRESIDENT WILSON THANKS PRESIDENT POINCARÉ.

Paris, April 8th.

President Wilson has replied to President Poincaré thanking him for his congratulations on the attitude the United States has been forced to adopt in opposition to the pitiless German imperialism.

AUSTRIA AND AMERICA. SEVERED RELATIONS.

Washington, April 9th.

A despatch from the American Minister in Switzerland announces that Austria broke off relations on April 8th.

Spain will take over the United States interests in Austria.

LATER.

Sweden probably takes over the Austrian interests in the United States.

The break is accepted as the prelude to a declaration of war.

A similar situation is expected in respect to Turkey and Bulgaria.

AUSTRIAN CHARGE D'AFFAIRES DEMANDS PASSPORTS.

Washington, April 9th.

The Austro-Hungarian Charge d'Affaires has demanded his passports.

AUSTRIAN STEAMERS SEIZED.

New York, April 10th.

The Austrian steamers at various ports have been taken over. The machinery of one was found to have been crippled.

GERMANS ARRESTED IN NEW YORK.

New York, April 8th.

Twenty-four more Germans have been arrested, including the former head of the Sayville wireless station.

FAR EASTERN MEN AND THE WAR.

Mr. A. Hood, who has been for some time second engineer on the *Evang*, proceeds home to offer his services in manufacturing munitions, says the *Peking and Tientsin Times*. He has been in the service of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd., for eleven years.

GERMAN OFFICER WAITS IN DUG-OUT TO BURN PAPERS.

The following incident of one of our raids will serve to illustrate how patient and indulgent our men can be towards their enemies, once they have got them well beaten.

One of our officers, with a handful of bombers, stood at the mouth of a deep dug-out crowded with Boches. In his best German, such as it was, he ordered them to come out and surrender. As he was going to blow up the dug-out, a voice replied, in excellent English:—"Yes, we're coming."

He waited, but no one appeared. He repeated his order more emphatically. He got the answer:—"Yes, yes! One minute, please." Again he waited, and still no one came forth. Once again he summoned them, adding that his next summons would be a bomb. Then, at last and just in time, the Boches came clambering out, obviously much relieved and in a great hurry to surrender. Finally their officer appeared with a dignified deliberation.

"I had to wait to burn my papers," he explained apologetically. The Canadian glared at him indignantly. Then his face relaxed in approval.

"All right," said he, "we'll call it square. But two seconds more and you'd been in kingdom come!"

CHINESE TELEGRAMS.

[BY COURTESY OF THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

CHINESE MINISTER'S DELAY IN LEAVING BERLIN.

Shanghai, April 10th.

The Chinese Minister to Berlin has not yet left Germany, and therefore the Chinese Government have sent a telegram to their Minister at Copenhagen asking for information as to the real reason for this. THE MILITARY AND DIPLOMATIC SITUATION.

The Premier has sent a telegram to all the Provincial Tientsins asking them to come to Peking in order to take part in the Military Conference and settle the diplomatic question.

At the meeting of the Diplomatic Conference on Saturday the question of declaring war against Germany was discussed.

OVERSEAS CHINESE AND DOMESTIC INDUSTRY.

The President has entertained the representatives of overseas Chinese and urged them to stimulate domestic industry.

DRAGGONING NEUTRALS. MENACE OF GERMAN TROOPS ON THE FRONTIERS.

A New York message of February 13th states:—

The correspondent of the Associated Press lately in Berlin cables some interesting particulars concerning the position of European neutrals whom President Wilson came on to join the United States in its action against the German policy of ruthless submarine warfare.

Have German army corps, he says, concentrated on the Dutch frontier supply a fairly convincing explanation, in default of other reasons, for the Dutch Government's failure to join with President Wilson in the policy recommended by him toward Germany. The fact that German troops were assembling in fairly large numbers in the vicinity of the Dutch border, had been talked about in military circles in Berlin several weeks before the announcement of the new submarine campaign. Their presence there at a time when Germany was talking peace was then usually explained as a precautionary measure, or even merely characterised as part of a plan for the distribution of strategic reserves for the spring campaign.

FLAW IN DEFENCE. Gossip was heard, too, in neutral quarters in Berlin that a flaw had been discovered in Holland's strategic scheme of defence against Germany, which, as is known, involves the flooding of parts of the country in front of the selected first line of defence. It had been discovered, so it was reported, that the flooding would lay under water a far greater area than had been contemplated, and throw into confusion the general scheme of defence.

The position of Holland was, to a greater or less extent, the position of other neutral countries contiguous to Germany, all being more or less open to attack by the legions of Germany, all having before their eyes the examples of Belgium, Serbia, and last, Roumania.

The story of troop concentrations in South-western Germany, in the vicinity of the Swiss frontier, has been the common property of the Swiss and *Zwente* Press for weeks, though the Swiss are perhaps better able to protect their mountain land than can the other small neutrals.

Denmark, whose land frontiers are open, and whose defence centre in a fortified camp around Copenhagen, is forced to reckon, in addition, with the existence of a strong German fleet completely in control of the Eastern Baltic, and with the Zeppelin menace as well.

TERRORISED. An interview appearing in a Berlin newspaper on the day after President Wilson's appeal to neutrals was published, and attributed to a "neutral diplomat," but possibly of home origin, summed up these military dangers of European neutrals, and held before their eyes the warning of Roumania's lot. No less convincing were the economic reasons, which militated against the acceptance by these Powers of Mr. Wilson's invitation to make common cause with the United States.

Shivering Denmark and Norway, on the scantiest coal rations and with the stoppage of British coal supplies, utterly dependent on Germany for necessary fuel, as well as for many raw materials and manufactured products, could see the danger of a step which would cut off imports from the German side.

The Foreign Minister of one Scandinavian State had reason on his side when he remarked to the American representative appearing with President Wilson's Note and a request for an answer, "Why, you can write it yourself."

No wonder the first pilgrimage of the Scandinavian representative to the German Foreign Office was to see about ensuring supplies of coal, and not to lodge a protest.

A Chinaman, the occupier of a house in Liverpool "Chinatown," was fined £50 and six other Chinese were each fined £40, at Liverpool on a charge, under the Defence of the Realm Act, of having been in unlawful possession of opium. The prisoners were found in a dilapidated dwelling-house, smoking opium. Five boxes of prepared opium were also found.

"Things They Do Better in China" is the title given to a cartoon by E. T. Reed in the *Pail Mail*. It depicts a Chinaman with a cane round his neck and his feet chained to a heavy log labelled "Murderer." The commander of a U boat surveys him and states:—"Ach, so! So that is the way we dress in China!! Ausgezeichnet!! Rather a showy and impressive little lounge suit! Barbarous, really!!"

SHIPPING

ARRIVALS.

BURRUMBEY, British str., 1,280, W. E. Heppell, 9th April—Olingwantao 2nd April, Coal.—Dodwell & Co.

CAVANBA, British str., 281, Hudson, 9th April—Hongay 7th April, Coal.—Order.

CHINA, American str., 3,183, T. H. Dobson, 9th April—San Francisco 4th March, China Mail S.S. Co., Ltd.

CHINYODA MARU, Japanese str., 1,065, Kawada, 8th April—Hongay 5th April, Coal.—Order.

CHUKA MARU, Japanese str., 480, Minami, 9th April—Keelung 6th April, Coal.—Order.

HACHIRO MARU, Japanese str., 1,063, Ishida, 10th April—Wakamatsu 4th April, Coal.—Mitani Busan Kaisha.

HAITAN, British str., 1,237, Hodgins, 10th April—Swatow 8th April, General.—Douglas Laprak & Co.

HAIMUN, British str., 641, H. M. Russell, 10th April—Saigon 6th April, Rice.—Order.

KWANTUNG, Chinese str., 1,536, C. Stewart, 9th April—Shanghai 6th April, General.—C. M. S. N. Co.

SINKIANG, British str., 1,318, Wm. Benson, 19th April—Shanghai 6th April, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

YUENANG, British str., 1,128, Mesney, 10th April—Manila 7th April, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Miss F. Clark, Mr. J. A. Hedges, Mr. Lucy Goodrich, Mr. and Mrs. L. Jackman, Miss G. Jackman, Master K. Jackman, Mr. A. F. Pene, Miss C. Seller, Mr. and Mrs. Simmons, Mr. K. H. Vay Dotsner, Mr. C. H. Whimish, Lieut. A. H. Wilson, Miss E. Young, Mrs. A. A. Zinn.

HONGKONG METEOROLOGICAL REGISTER.

Hongkong Observatory, April 10th.

	Previous Day	On Date	On Date
	at 2 p.m.	at 8 a.m.	at 2 p.m.
Barometer	29.86	29.83	29.80
Thermometer	70	69	76
Humidity	80	83	83
Wind Direction	East	East	South
Force	4	3	2
Weather	Cloud	Cloud	Cloud
Rain	0.42	0	0

Highest surface temperature on 9th 71

Lowest surface temperature on 10th 69

HONGKONG TIDE TABLE.

From 11th to 17th April.

Day of Week	Day of Month	HIGH WATER.			LOW WATER.		
		Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Wed.	11	11 11	7 0	4 31	3 0		
Thurs.	12	0 41	4 1	5 42	3 3		
Fri.	13	2 0	3 8	5 13	3 5		
Satur.	14	4 9	3 7	5 35	3 7		
Sun.	15	1 11	4 2	5 46	3 5		
Mon.	16	3 12	4 3	11 10	4 1		
Tues.	17	4 39	4 3	10 10	4 1		
		6 12	4 3	0 5	1 4		
		6 12	4 3	11 33	3 5		

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TIENTSIN "CHINSHING" Thursday, 12th Apr. 8 p.m.

SHANGHAI via SWATOW "WINGSANG" Friday, 13th Apr. 11 a.m.

MANILA "TAISANG" Saturday, 14th Apr. 3 p.m.

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NORONHAI.

Vladivostok.	Nikoljevsk.
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CHINA.

Seoul.	Wonsan.	Mokpo.
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Manila.	Iloilo.	Cebu.
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Brunei.	Brunei.	

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Negeri Sembilan.	Johore.	Kedah.
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Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.
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FOR	STEAMERS	DATE
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SWATOW and SINGAPORE	"CHENGTHU"	On 13th Apr., D'light.
"LENTSIN"	"KUSICHOW"	On 14th Apr., Noon.
SHANGHAI	"ANHUI"	On 15th Apr., D'light.

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"HAITIAN"	... Capt. A. E. Hodgins	... WED'DAY, 11th Apr., at 11 A.M.

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STRAITS, COLOMBO, INDIA, AUSTRALASIA, EGYPT, &c.

Steamer	Leave Hong Kong	Connecting Mail	Due at MARSEILLES	Due at LONDON
COLOMBO	Noon	Str. from Colombo	1917	1917

When Passengers change Steamers at COLOMBO, Accommodation in the connecting Steamer from COLOMBO is definitely reserved in Hongkong at the time of Booking.
On the Australian Route Tickets interchangeable with Orient Line.

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SS

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(Non-Transshipment)

IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE MAIL STEAMERS,
WILL LEAVE DIRECT FOR

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The Intermediate	Service is	Temporarily	Suspended.	

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Consignees are reminded of the necessity to apply to the Company's Agents regarding arrival of consignments expected of which they have received documents or advice.
Any damaged packages must be left in the Godowns for examination by the Consignee, and the Company's Surveyors, Messrs. GODDARD & DOUGLAS, at 10 A.M. on MONDAYS and THURSDAYS. All Claims must be presented within ten days of the Steamer's arrival here, after which date they cannot be recognised. No Claims will be admitted after the goods have left the Godowns.
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SHANGHAI, MOJI and KOBE. RANGOON MARU (THURSDAY, 19th Apr.

NAGASAKI, KOBE and YOKOHAMA. AKI MARU (FRIDAY, 13th Apr., at 11 A.M.

YOKOHAMA. KAGA MARU (THURSDAY, 12th Apr., at 11 A.M.

STRAIT N.G. HIA 12, KOBE and YOKOHAMA. JINSEN MARU (FRIDAY, 13th Apr.

YOKOHAMA. KATORI MARU (MONDAY, 20th Apr., at 11 A.M.

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Sailings from Hongkong—Subject to Change Without Notice.

Steamer	Tons and Speed	Leave Hongkong
PERSIA MARU	9,000 — 14 knots	WED, 18th April, 10.30 A.M.
KOREA MARU	18,000 — 18 knots	SATUR., 28th April.
SIBERIA MARU	18,000 — 18 knots	SATUR., 12th May.
TENYO MARU	28,000 — 21 knots	WED., 23rd May.
NIPPON MARU	11,000 — 15 knots	TUES., 5th June.
SHINYO MARU	23,000 — 21 knots	TUES., 19th June.

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North American Line. For VICTORIA, SEATTLE and TACOMA, via SHANGHAI, MANILA, NAGASAKI, MOJI, KOBE and YOKOHAMA.

"HAWAII MARU"	... THURSDAY, 12th Apr., at 1 P.M.
"CANADA MARU"	... WED'DAY, 15th Apr., at 3 P.M.

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JAVA LINE—Monthly service for Java ports calling at Manila, Sandakan and Macassar. Booking for passengers and cargo to the ports.

FOR SAILING DATES AND FURTHER PARTICULARS REGARDING PASSENGER OR FREIGHT APPLY AT OFFICE.

FORMOSAN LINE—For Tainan, Keelung and Asping, Takao, via Swatow and Amoy.

"SOSHU MARU"	... THURSDAY, 12th Apr., at 8 A.M.
"AMAKUSA MARU"	... SUNDAY, 15th Apr., at Noon.
"KAJO MARU"	... SUNDAY, 22nd Apr., at Noon.

These Formosan Liners will arrive at and depart from the SOON YIP WHARF, near the Harbour Office, and while the steamer is alongside the wharf Telephone No. 76 will be fixed.

For FURTHER INFORMATION, apply to—

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